

Arlington Recycling Committee
Minutes 12/2/2010

Present: Juli Brazile (co-chair), Carolyn Dann (DEP Advisor on PAYT), Pete Howard (Secretary)

PAYT: The purpose of this meeting was to learn as much as possible from Carolyn about how PAYT has worked in other MA communities and how it might work in Arlington. To this end, Carolyn provided a 12 slide .ppt handout (Ref 1) covering this topic and including what the Manager's committee has been talking about. We reviewed the outreach so far (private briefings with Al Tosti & Jack Hurd) Both were mostly concerned with a possible negative effect on an override, but also with illegal dumping, the diversion achieved in other towns, and the mechanics covered in Carolyn's charts. We discussed what should be done next given that the Long Range Planning Committee won't meet again until Feb & the Warrant closes 1/7/11. The discussion resulted in the following.

Action Items:

Carolyn: Inquire about scheduling the next PAYT steering mtg; ask who we should talk to concerning the number of residents that would need financial assistance (affordable housing? AHA?) (impact on revenue)

Carolyn: Distribute latest Excel model w/ just PAYT bag options updated w/ latest WM inputs & Arlington tonnage, HH, etc

Carolyn: Provide Ref 1 file for minutes

Pete: Forward latest model to Al Tosti and discuss what the FinCom should do next (subcommittee?, 2 budget approach w/ & w/o PAYT?, enterprise fund/revolving fund?)

Juli: Discuss a warrant article w/ Annie (who should insert, what should it say, possibility of starting PAYT if requested by TM w/ a promise to call a STM to rescind if sufficient? demand)

NEXT MEETING

Jan ??? at 7:30, Town Hall Annex, upstairs conference room ???

Ref 1 PAYT Concept for Arlington (ARCPresentation.pptx)

Background

- MassDEP's support for PAYT
 - Technical Assistance thru "MACs"
 - Start-up funding of \$5/household (w/ conditions)
- First PAYT study completed December 2004
 - No action by Board of Selectmen
- Town Manager's PAYT Study Committee 2009
 - No action by Town Meeting due to override planned for a vote in 2011

This Year's Effort

- Steering Committee: TM, Asst TM, DPW, FinComm rep, Recycling Committee rep
- Goal is to work with Town Boards and officials to identify a way that PAYT can be presented to voters as in conjunction with an override, if an override is planned.
 - Meetings to date – Al Tosti, Selectman Hurd (offered to meet with any of them)
- Next, build grassroots support for the PAYT votes needed (by Selectmen, Town Meeting, or referendum, if combined with override)

“The most effective way to reduce solid waste and increase recycling” - MassDEP

- Comparisons of Tons/Household Served
 - CY09 average for 182 munis* = 0.9 Tons
 - CY09 average for 11 PAYT munis* = 0.7 Tons
 - Arlington = 0.8 Tons
 - 25% Reduction projected for Arlington with PAYT = 0.60
- Some FY10 Examples and first year reduction percentages
 - Ashland 0.60 (-38%, FY07 vs. FY06)
 - Ayer 0.67 (has had PAYT a long time)
 - Gloucester 0.54 (-8%, FY09 PAYT bags vs. FY08 with PAYT stickers)
 - Groton 0.64 (-51% FY04 vs. FY03, partly loss of WMI tons)
 - Malden 0.59 (-49% FY08 vs. FY10, started mid-FY09)
 - Shrewsbury 0.66 (-33% FY09 vs. FY08)

* 182 Municipalities applied for grants and completed a CY09 Solid Waste Survey. That includes only 11 of the 132 PAYT municipalities in the state.

PAYT Common Concerns – Illegal Dumping

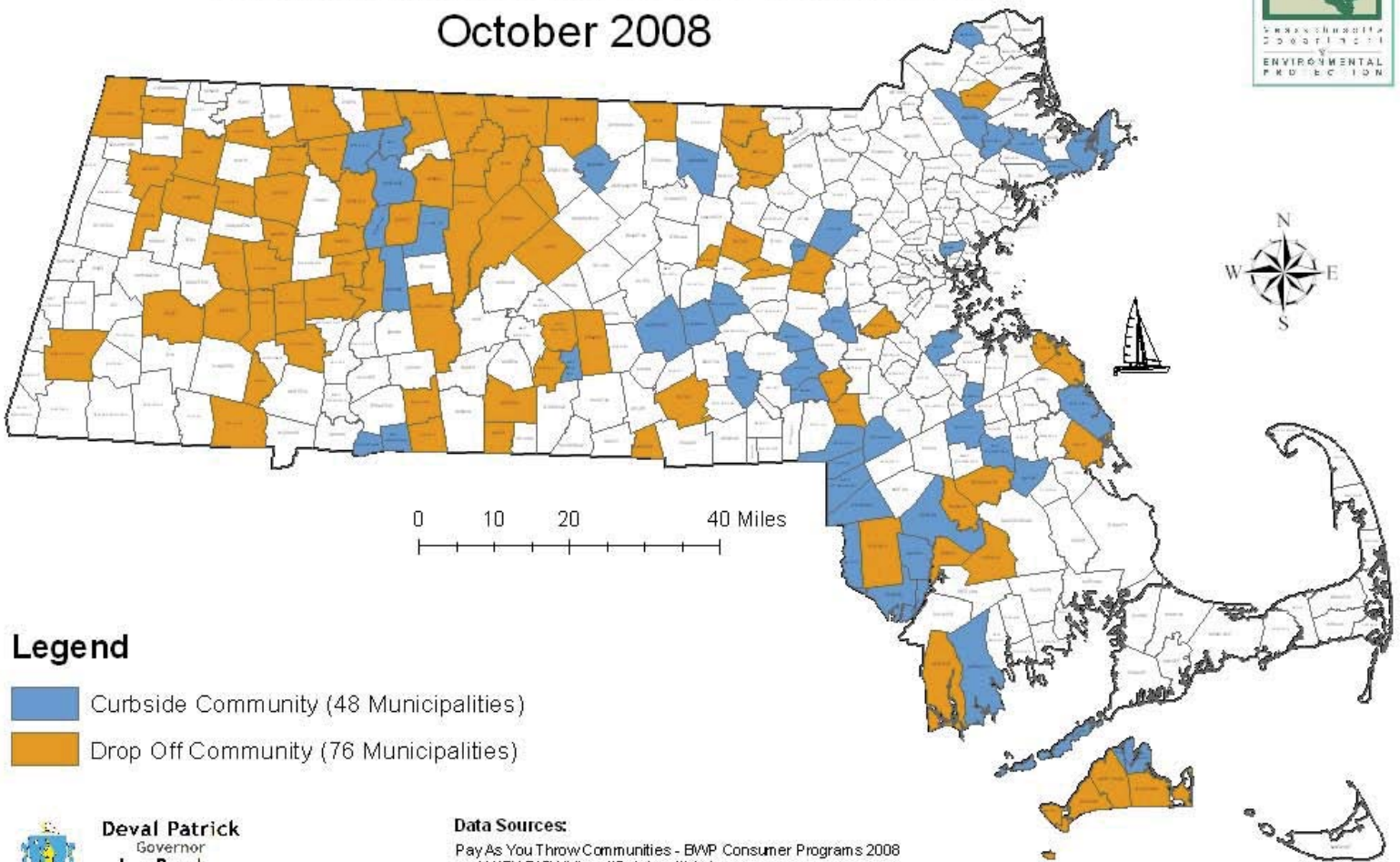
- Ask any Town with PAYT. A survey of 25-30 PAYT communities indicates that illegal dumping:
 - Does not increase with PAYT
 - Can be controlled with enforcement
 - Most illegal dumping is not bags of trash; is tires, TVs, appliances, construction waste
 - Arlington already has some illegal dumping
 - Arlington has a plan to deal with any initial additional illegal dumping (DPW + Police, fines)

PAYT Trends

- 132 Municipalities now have some form of PAYT
- Another 90+ have annual trash fees or sticker fees to use a Transfer Station
- That leaves a “shrinking minority” of municipalities are still trying to pay for SW&R out of property taxes.
- “Free” Trash service no longer makes sense.
 - High tech incineration with costly pollution controls
 - Long-distance to incinerator

Municipal Solid Waste Pay-As-You-Throw Communities in Massachusetts

October 2008



Legend

-  Curbside Community (48 Municipalities)
-  Drop Off Community (76 Municipalities)



Deval Patrick
Governor
Ian Bowles
Secretary of Energy and
Environmental Affairs

Data Sources:

Pay As You Throw Communities - BWP Consumer Programs 2008
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Massachusetts Municipalities - MassGIS 2004

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Town/School Involvement

- Most towns do not use PAYT bags in municipal buildings or schools
 - Difficult to control the supply
 - Cost of SW is not part of the school budget
- Arlington is considering some way to have town and school buildings use PAYT bags but plans are preliminary

Condo/Apartment Impacts of PAYT

- Most Towns offer curbside service only up to 4- or 6-family complexes.
- Some provide service to all apartments and condos, including dumpster service
- With PAYT, Arlington has several options available:
 - Continue dumpster service but at equivalent cost
 - Continue only curbside service (e.g., garden apartments), no dumpsters
 - Discontinue all service to larger than some size

Other Concerns?

- Where will I buy the bags?
 - Grocery, hardware and convenience stores
- Can I still use my barrel?
 - Yes, just use the bag inside the barrel.
- Will the Town offer larger recycling carts?
 - They likely will continue to make stickers available to convert a trash barrel to one for containers.
- How much will the bags cost?
 - The Selectmen will decide. Other area towns charge between \$1.50 and \$2.50 per bag.

Benefits of PAYT

- Cleaner, neater trash days with less trash
- At \$2/bag, the Town benefits ~\$2million
 - Avoided disposal costs on the reduced trash
 - New revenue from the sale of bags
- More incentive to reuse, donate to charity, repair, use electronic exchanges

Other Concerns with PAYT

- Incentive to reduce waste may result in more contaminated recycling, especially with “Single-Stream” recycling.
 - Need good public outreach!
 - Need to emphasize: **NO PLASTIC BAGS** in recycling!
- Bag fees are not tax-deductible.
 - True, but the annual cost of bags, if priced ~\$2/bag is likely to be ~\$100-\$150/year.
 - The tax deduction lost may be 30% or \$30-50.

This is why “NO PLASTIC BAGS” in
Recycling

